

# THE IRVIN FAMILY

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: UGANDA, AFRICA



August 2023

***And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.***

**Acts 19:18-20**

The passage above, from Acts 19, characterizes the month of August. The Lord continue to save souls, but this month came with certain consolation rarely seen in Uganda. Ugandans respond well to reasoning from the scriptures, and as a result, professions of faith abound. The negative is that many of these conversations prove disingenuous in the end. But, from time to time, the Lord blesses us with tremendous conversions that stir the hearts of the men and women who faithfully witness. Three times in August, we were amazed at what God wrought.

The first situation involves the recent displacement of our Friday street preaching. The city of Masaka has planned to shift its Friday market from the long but temporary location in town. A new building meant to facilitate the Friday market suffered from prolonged plans for the eventual move. We knew it was coming and would have to shift our street preaching location accordingly. The time finally arrived, but the resulting confusion did not match the time taken for planning. The building filled up quickly with vendors until space ran out, leaving numerous vendors in the streets outside the new building. The people set up in the streets to express their frustration, blocking the roads.

To test the waters, the men from our Church set up inside the building, which is open to the elements, and with speakers to the front and the back, they filled Masaka with their doctrine. Eventually, the local officials asked them to move outside, but they enjoyed this expansive pulpit while it lasted. They are currently seeking written permission to continue preaching inside the building. If you would pray with them about this, that would be a blessing.



The following week, local officials moved the vendors who took up their stewardship in the streets of Masaka to a secondary location in town. The brethren and I decided to try this new location and see how many people we could give the gospel to. It went well, but it quickly became apparent that the market in town was the better location. And yet, the Lord blessed our efforts. While at this new location, a young man became enamored by the men preaching. He climbed up the hill where they were preaching and listened intently. I moved in and out, passing out John/Romans, walking by him as I returned to refill. On my way out, I handed him a John/Romans but noticed the look on his face. It was not one of anger, but it seemed clear that some internal struggle was occurring. On my way back, he had engaged the brethren waiting to preach next; they began witnessing to him. It turns out he was deeply involved in witchcraft familiar to Ugandans. But he was under strong conviction from the preaching.

That was Friday, and on Saturday, he came to the Church and met with Pastor Paul. They spoke together until midnight. Daniel was in tears and struggling to relinquish his witchcraft, a fundamental practice he inherited from his family. At midnight, he went home but came for Church the next day. After hearing the sermon and displaying his desire for salvation, he gave in to the Lord and professed his faith in Jesus Christ.

After trusting in Christ, he desired to know what to do with the religious instruments he used in his practice of witchcraft. He refused to destroy them because he did not technically own them. But, he knew he could not remain with them as a member of the body of Christ. Instead, he made the long journey home and returned them to his brother, who mocked him for leaving the family business and religion. But Daniel was not phased. He told his brother he had been freed by Jesus Christ and no longer needed witchcraft. This was a blessed response to the gospel.

But Daniel was not the only person to voluntarily give up idolatry this month. The brethren and I made our way to Kyazanga for Village Public Ministry. The Lord greatly blessed our efforts. After one intense and long day of evangelism, six people trusted in Christ. Since then, three of the six have joined the Church and are actively involved in discipleship.

Furthermore, of the six, two Roman Catholics chose to give up their Catholic relics after making their profession of faith in Jesus Christ. In Uganda, acts such as these are rare. The brethren were greatly encouraged, and we thank the Lord for his kindness.



Thank you for continuing to pray as we balance local ministry and prepare for our return to the United States. I have been able to speak with several Pastors and have several more phone calls to make. The responses from good men bless and encourage. I am humbled to learn that many of our supporting Churches intend to continue their support as we transition to Go Forth Baptist Church. This unexpected blessing greatly encourages my family and me in the Lord. Please continue to pray as we approach our departure in November. I wrote and designed a new tract, sending 2500 to Go Forth for distribution. I also created a Church invitation, of which I plan to have 10,000 printed and waiting for our arrival in Mississippi. This will allow us to hit the ground running as we transition to revitalize the Lord's Church.

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